



# University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

## BOARD OF REGENTS

### LAWS OF THE REGENTS

#### ARTICLE 1: UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO LEGAL ORIGIN, MISSION, POLICY FRAMEWORK AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

##### Part C: University of Colorado Policy Framework

The University of Colorado promulgates a structure for describing and ranking the law and policies applicable to the university community. The structure (see Exhibit 1) represents the hierarchy of University of Colorado policy documents in order of precedence (1 – 8). To the extent that any document lower in the hierarchy is inconsistent with a higher document, the higher document prevails.

- [1] The University of Colorado is a public entity recognized in the Colorado Constitution. As a public entity, the Regents of the University of Colorado and the University of Colorado are subject to the requirements of the United States Constitution and applicable federal laws as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The University of Colorado is subject to the requirements of the Colorado Constitution and laws enacted by Colorado's General Assembly as interpreted by the Colorado Supreme Court and Colorado Court of Appeals. In construing laws enacted by the General Assembly, the University of Colorado shall be guided by the principle that any such legislation operates to divest the Regents of the University of Colorado of the constitutional grant of supervision and control of the university only when the legislation demonstrates a clear legislative intent to displace the Board of Regents' presumptive authority to govern the University of Colorado.

- [2] The Laws of the Regents are the highest source of authority within the University of Colorado, establish how the University of Colorado is organized and governed, and are binding upon the Regents of the University of Colorado and the university community.

- [3] Regent Policies are enacted by the Regents of the University of Colorado to operationalize the Laws of the Regents, direct the operation of functions for which the Board of Regents retains ultimate responsibility, and delegate authority to officers of the university and the administration.

- [4] Universitywide administrative policy statements (APS) are enacted by the president of the university in accordance with defined processes to provide operational requirements to the entire university community and delegate authority to officers of the university and the administration.

[5] Universitywide procedure statements include detailed information on rules and how to complete specific tasks within functional areas including, but not limited to, finance, procurement, human resources, risk management and university relations.

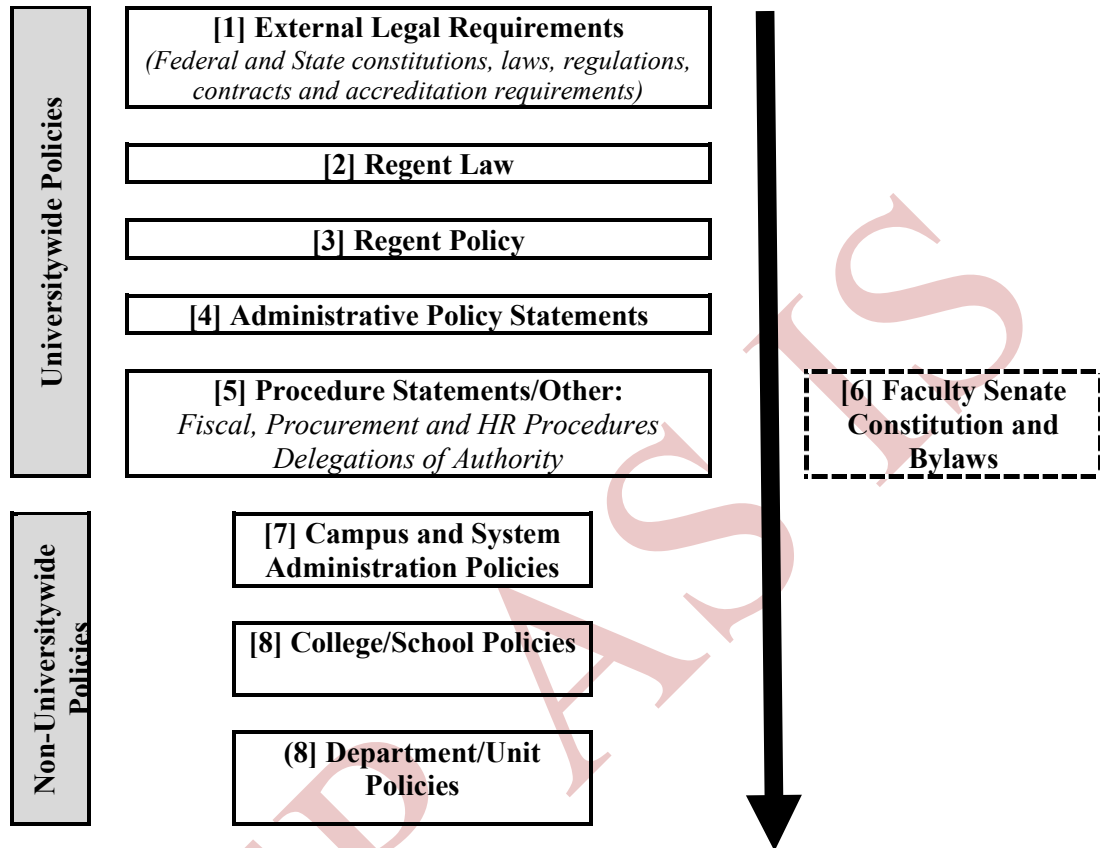
[6] The Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws provides a system for participation of faculty in the governance of the university as specified in the Laws of the Regents of the University of Colorado, which enumerate the rights, privileges and responsibilities of the faculty.

[7] System administration policies are enacted by the president of the university in accordance with defined processes to provide operational requirements to the members of the university community of the system administration and to delegate authority to officers of the system administration.

Campuswide policies are enacted by the chancellor of a University of Colorado campus in accordance with defined processes to provide operational requirements to the members of the university community of the campus and to delegate authority to officers of the campus administration.

[8] Unit policies are enacted by departments, divisions, schools, colleges, institutes, or programs and do not have universitywide or campuswide application.

Exhibit 1: University Policy Framework and Hierarchy



#### History:

- Adopted: February 11, 2010.
- Revised: January 22, 1998; April 5, 2018 (Parts A, B, C, and D); September 14, 2018 (Added Article 1.E: Freedom of Expression and revised Article 1.D: Ethical Conduct of University of Colorado Employees); June 18, 2020 (Article 1.D: Ethical Conduct of the University of Colorado Community was moved into Article 8: Conduct of Members of the University Community); June 4, 2025 (Parts A and B were reviewed with no changes).
- Last Reviewed: June 4, 2025 (Parts A and B only).
- Non-substantive Changes: January 2024; July 30, 2025 (Conforming amendments made for renumbering of regent laws and policies: Article 1.E: Freedom of Expression renumbered to Article 1.D: Freedom of Expression).